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John Guy Lofton to Elizabeth C. Lofton (8 December 1861)

John Guy Lofton

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Camp Fisher Pa, Dec 8th 1861

Dear Wife

I write you
this evening to let you hear from
me & to answer some of ^{the} 25
shown also to one dated 18 written
by Frances. It was with pleasure
I read those bearing the tidings
of your delivery it has been a
great consolation to me to hear
that you were doing well &
regret very much that I could
not be with you in time of
your illness. But military mat-
ters are so pressing & have been
that it would have been needless
to have made application for
a furlough we have been ex-
pecting a battle here for near
three months & are further
^{apparently} from it now than ever, yet
there is a strong probability
we will have some fighting to do
here before winter quarters are
established, I do not believe we

The twelve month volunteers will
be kept here til Christmas
I think we will be discharged
or sent on the coast of S. C. or
Georgia or Florida perhaps the
latter I do not know when
I can get off for home but
I expect to send up my petition
this week asking leave of absence
the 15th of this month but it
is quite probable it will not
be approved if so I must humbly
submit & give up the idea of
returning for some time I can get
my Capt's permission to leave at any
time but General Johnston says he
cannot give furloughs except in
cases of inability I have not made any
application yet there is a good deal
of pneumonia in camp which
has proved very fatal so far
it generally kills in about
eight days we have no fever
scarcely brother has a chill
& fever has had two I think
he will miss tomorrow as I

am running gunnison on
him today I hope he will
get well in a few days
he is so fleshy you would
not know him, he is in
camp, we have made a fine
place to our tent and are
very comfortably situated
our regiment have many houses
built ^{myself} are going to raise
our house tomorrow & live bet-
ter we have heavy firing on
the river every day & it is
said there are eight war
vessels lying down below our
batteries I suppose they design
bombarding our batteries but
they will be sunk if they
venture near enough to do
us any injury you wrote
me to name the babe I
want you to give it a name
& write me what it is you
can give it a name more
spiritual than I can so I
leave that for you to do

Then I will be well pleased
with any name you may cho-
ose ~~at~~ I do not wish to give
any name for it I hope
you will comply as it may
be some time before I return
(if ever permitted) & you will
call it something & become
used to it so much so that
you could never call it by
the name which might be
chosen

Write I wish I could be
done with you. Christy & I
will be if possible, tell Mrs
Rusell that I am as well tell
Fannie I will write her soon
tell Jackson & Mary too & all
the rest that they almost deafen
me with their good letters
I have not heard from you bro-
thers since you wrote & do
not know when I will
write soon, yours and
farewell J. B. Lefton